

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration. Claims 1-44 were previously pending in this application. By this amendment, Applicant is canceling claims 2 and 24 without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 5-7, 14, 23, 27-29 and 36 have been amended. As a result, claims 1, 3-23 and 25-44 are pending for examination with claims 1, 6, 7, 14, 23, 28, 29 and 36 being independent claims. No new matter has been added.

In the Office Action the Examiner objected to claims 5-7, 27-29 because of the following informalities: "NB2O5" stands for -- Nb₂O₅ --, "TiO2" stands for -- TiO₂ --, "Ta2O5" stands for -- Ta₂O₅ --, "Al2O3" stands for -- Al₂O₃ --, and "SiO2" stands for -- SiO₂ --. The Examiner is correct in the above belief. Thus, the claims have been amended to correct for these.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 8-12, 23 and 30-34 as being anticipated by Ohsako et al. (Publication No. US2004/0061935 A1). He has further rejected claims 3-5 and 25-27 as being unpatentable over Ohsako et al. in view of Sinkoff (U.S. Patent No. 6,724,529); claims 13, 18-22, 35 and 40-44 as being unpatentable over Ohsako et al. in view of Sekiguchi (U.S. Patent No. 6,707,605); and claims 15-17 and 37-39 as being unpatentable over Ohsako et al. in view of Sekiguchi and further in view of Sinkoff.

The Examiner has, however, objected to claims 2, 6-7, 14, 24, 28-29 and 36 as being dependent upon a rejected base claims, but allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, claim 1 has been rewritten to include the subject matter of previous claim 2, claim 6 has been amended to include the subject matter of previous claims 3 and 1 from which it depended, claim 7 has been amended to include the subject matter of previous claims 3 and 1 from which it depended, claim 14 has been amended to include the subject matter of previous claims 13 and 1 from which it depended, claim 23 has been amended to include the subject matter of previous claim 24, claim 28 has been amended to include the subject matter of previous claims 23 and 25 from which it depended, claim 29 has been amended to include the subject matter of previous claims 23 and 25 from which it depended, and claim 36 has been amended to include the subject matter of previous claims 23 and 35 from which it depended.

Claims 2 and 24 have been canceled without prejudice. Thus, each of independent claims 1, 6, 7, 14, 23, 28, 29 and 36 is allowable. Similarly, dependent claims 3-5, 8-13, 15-22, 25-27, 30-35 and 37-44 which depend from such independent claims, are allowable.

Accordingly, withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

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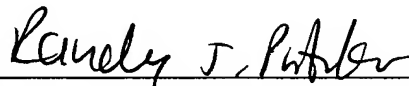
CONCLUSION

A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if this communication does not place the case in condition for allowance.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully submitted,
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